

D of A delivers!

Agency raises nearly \$7,000 for United Way of Greater Topeka



For two hours on Oct. 29, the sights and smells of the 2015 Chili Cook-off filled the Kansas Statehouse Rotunda. The event was the culmination of the Department of Administration's efforts for the annual pledge drive for the United Way of Greater Topeka.

All told, the Department of Administration raised nearly \$7,000 in pledges and donations during October. The chili event raised \$960 in sales, topping the 2014 mark of \$720.

The event was weeks in the making, starting with planning by the agency's Community Service Committee. New to



this year's event was a silent auction of 10 gift baskets prepared by employees. Themes ranged from several geared toward children to "All Things Kansas" and "Dream Bigger," to an assortment of Kansas City Royals items just in time for their World Series victory.

This new feature of the chili event raised \$840.50

Continued on page 2



Chili event, silent auction net funds for charity



Continued from page 1

for the United Way of Greater Topeka. Bidding was spirited and went down to the deadline. The top bid was \$200 for the “Dream Bigger” basket prepared by the Printing and Surplus staff.

“The response from the Department of Administration was more than we could have expected,” said John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs.

The event was also attended by staff and volunteers from the United Way of Greater Topeka. Information about the beneficiaries of the annual campaign was provided during the event.

“United Way of Greater Topeka truly appreciates the enthusiastic support of the Department of Administration for supporting the annual United Way campaign,” said Becky Kester, State Ambassador for the United Way. “The campaign takes a significant commitment from volunteers to contribute to, and staff, the chili cook-off and silent auction.

“The \$1,800 raised will help United Way support community-changing work in education, financial stability and health in Topeka. When we work together, even if our individual investments are modest, then we make great things happen!”

WANT TO HELP?

The Department of Administration is involved in a number of volunteer activities. For more information, go to the Community Service link on our home page at <http://www.admin.ks.gov/>



Jeff Scannell, Best Mild Recipe



Jim Frye, Best Spicy Recipe



Connie Lester, Best Experimental Recipe



Four Chicks and a Dude, Best Traditional Recipe

Winning recipes will be distributed in the coming weeks!

Meet Laura Wilcox



Office of Chief Financial Officer

Position:

Team leader—Accounting

Job Duties:

Accounting and reporting
for the state revolving funds

How long you've been with D of A:

Since 1982

Favorite part of your job:

I like most all of it. It's fun!

Interesting fact about you:

I breed, train, ride and show Arabian horses.

Favorite hobby:

Riding and showing my horses.

How you would spend an ideal day off:

With my horses at home.



A note from the Secretary...

If you're like me, you've spent the past several weeks watching or listening to the Kansas City Royals complete their mission to win the 2015 World Series. It was a goal that began a year ago when they watched helplessly as the San Francisco Giants won the title at Kauffman Stadium.

But instead of sulking and thinking of what could have been, the Royals worked hard in the off-season and began spring training with the focus solely on completing unfinished business. They started fast, letting others know that they were serious about winning it all.

Win the American League Central? They did that with room to spare. Have the best record in the American League and earn home-field advantage? They did that, too. All that remained was a drive through the playoffs against Houston, Toronto and eventually the Mets.

We all know the story now. Faced with adversity, the team fought back to win eight playoff games after trailing. Good pitching, solid defense and an offense that refused to make outs led to winning the World Series 4-1 over the Mets.

In winning, the Royals talked about doing it for the fans and the city of Kansas City. More than 800,000 of those fans showed up for the victory parade, sharing the title with a team that embodied the spirit of individuals pulling together for the betterment of the team. It was a moving sight.

While we don't win any world titles for doing our jobs on a daily basis at the Department of Administration, that same spirit is on display. When faced with challenges, our teams step forward to make Kansas government work. We serve other agencies so that they can better do their missions.

A great example of pulling together for our community was the recent Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction. Countless hours of preparation went into the event, from organizing all the delicious chili that was served to baking sweets and assembling some wonderful gift baskets. The result was a fantastic event in the Statehouse Rotunda attended by hundreds of people from across the Capitol Complex.

In the end, people were smiling, their bellies were full and \$1,800.50 was raised to help make Greater Topeka a better place for our neighbors. It was an example of solid teamwork and our relentless focus in the Department of Administration to accomplish our goals. Thanks, everyone, for the part you played. Good job, team!

Sarah